1946 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LVIII - Number 5 – December 2009

No General Meeting !

Instead, join your fellow members and guests at the club's annual Christmas-Holiday Dinner

Friday December 18, 2009
7:00pm
Highlands Country Club
110 Hiller Drive
Oakland, California

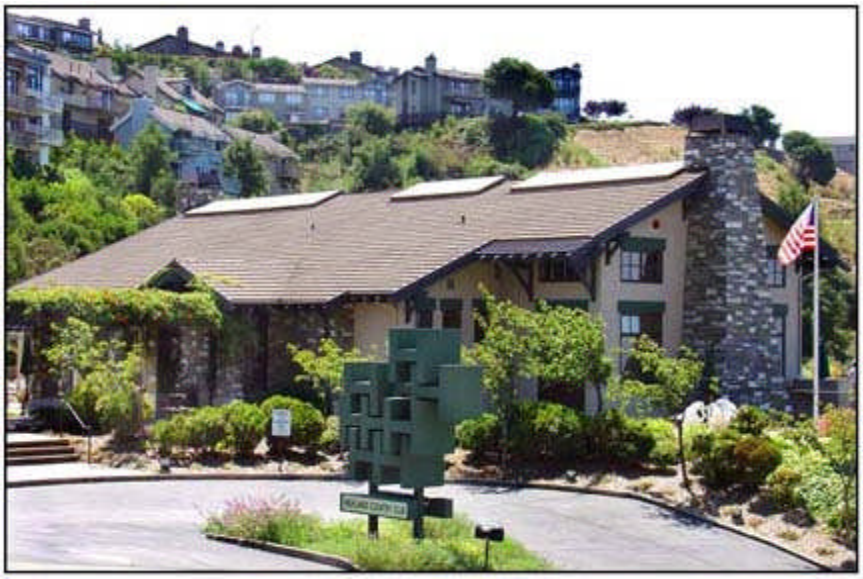
Christmas-Holiday Dinner	1
Acting President's QTC	1
Officers and Appointees	2
Dec. 7 Board Minutes	2
Nov. 2 Board Minutes	3
Meet the New Editor	4
Gettin' the Picture !	5
Nov. 20 Meeting Minutes	6
Ham Radio Outlet	7
Club Repeaters	8
Club Calendar	8

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Seasons Greetings !

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

Club Christmas-Holiday Dinner at Highlands Country Club



The festivities will begin at seven o'clock Friday evening December 18 at the Highlands Country Club 110 Hiller Drive in Oakland. We have an excellent caterer who will serve a buffet dinner beginning 7:30 p.m.. Reservation payments were due by December 7.

ACTING PRESIDENT'S QTC

IRS CLASSIFIES MDARC AS A PUBLIC CHARITY !

We have received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) exempting us from federal income tax under section 501(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as of April 10, 2009. Income from PACIFICON is tax-exempt and so are other sources of income such as membership dues. Contributions of money and property to MDARC are tax-deductible. We are also qualified to receive tax deductible governmental, corporate and private grants, bequests, transfers or gifts.

MDARC has been classified as a public charity – the highest level of tax exemption. The next steps will be to apply for a similar tax exemption from the State of California and thereafter for sales tax exemptions.

I want to thank Ron Luttringer K6XC and Bart Lee K6VK for their legal counsel and advice during this process. — *John Ronan, K3ZJJ*

December 7, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Vice President John Ronan K3ZJJ called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Other Officers present: Secretary Paul Dickey N6JOX, co-Treasurers Doug KI6VVV and Rebecca KI6VVT Hinckley, EC and Pacificon Committee Chairman Marty Heyman W6MDH. Directors present: Herbert Cole AI6AT, Dave Gordon N6SWE, Dale McIntire AD6HD. Others present: MDARC School Liaison Jim Siemons AF6PU.

John announced that at long last the Club had received approval of the 501c3 application, retroactive to April 10, 2009. The approval letter was dated Dec. 3, 2009.

The Board discussed the Club web page; registration questions will be addressed by John, who will check with Marvin Miller WA6GBW, current webmaster, Bob Beard KG6FPZ, former webmaster, and Patrick Rigney N6UPS, potential host and webmaster.

John determined that current sign-ups for the Christmas Party total 58. The Board affirmed the cut-off date for reservations as Dec. 13. Various awards were discussed, and various hams were proposed as recipients; John will make the final determinations and reveal the results at the Christmas Party.

The Board discussed a proposed scholarship for deserving youth who might enter a scientific or engineering curriculum in college. The Board determined that it should be the result of an announced process, including application, proposal for line of study, and committee determination. A committee was appointed, with Dale as Chairman, to include Dave and others, to propose and recommend formats and processes.

Rebecca noted that they had received numerous sealed ballots, and would bring them all to the Christmas Party for counting. The announcement of the new Board would be made at that time.

For the Tech Committee, Dave advised that the new cpu was up and running on the hill. There was some discussion of the Club's trailer. EC Marty will check on moving it to some other location in order to avoid the $50/month storage fee. The City of Martinez is ready to donate the trailer to the Club.

Jim reported that his discussion of joint training sessions (including kit building) in schools had been well received at the meeting of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. There were lots of questions and discussion. Also Jim mentioned his ongoing efforts to obtain prices, etc. for Club shirts, vests, name badges, etc.

Doug reported that they had received $911 so far in Christmas Party reservations, as well as 37 membership renewals.

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Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Jason Legate W6SN mdarc@proxime.net
Vice President - John Ronan K3ZJJ jtronan@aol.com
Secretary – Paul Dickey N6JOX paulr33@earthlink.net
Treasurers - Doug Hinkley KI6VVV and
Rebecca Hinkley KI6VVT
Emergency Coordinator
Marty Heyman W6MDH mheyman@symas.com

Director & Technical Committee Chair
Trevor Hall WA6JAU wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

Directors At Large
Dave Gordon N6SWE
Dale McIntyre AD6HD
Herbert Cole AI6AT

PACIFICON 2010
Chair Marty Heyman W6MDH
Vice Chair Paula Costa KI6MPD

Membership Chair – Tom Deeble KA6SIP
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

Editor, *The Carrier* – Matthew G. Vurek N4DLA
n4dla@k6ori.com

Webmaster – Marvin Miller WA6GBW
Repeater Trustee - Jay Caldis KT6Y
Volunteer Examinations - Ron Lutringer K6XC
Public Service - Pete Harris KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles WA6CIE
Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
School Liaisons - Jim Siemons AF6PU and Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan AF6HQ

Bank totals are now $16,135 in checking and approx. $25 K in CDs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Nov. 2, 2009 (7:00pm. Buttercup Grill, 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek)

Vice President John Ronan K3ZJJ called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Other Officers present: Secretary Paul Dickey N6JOX, co-Treasurers Doug KI6VVV and Rebecca KI6VVT Hinckley, EC and Pacificon Committee Chairman Marty Heyman W6MDH. Directors present: Trevor Hall WA6JAU (after 7:35), Dale McIntire AD6HD. Others present: Membership Chairman Tom Deeble KA6SIP, Pacificon Vice-Chairman and Site Coordinator Paula Costa KI6MPD, MDARC School Liason Jim Siemons AF6PU and Misa. Special guests (until about 7:20) from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Uniformed Group (Amateur Radio) were Mike Patterson N6JGA, Jim NiCastro KI6SDF, Ed Gonzalez-Fuentes K6EGF and Dave Piersall N6ORB.

The Board discussed a request from the CCSO Radio Team to use the CX repeater for about 20 min. on a Sunday evening once a month, in order to run tests and experiments with various repeaters and locations to determine coverage problems and possibilities. The Board approved this experimental use on the third Sunday of the month, not-to-exceed one year, at which time the Group would report their conclusions to the Board.

The Board discussed the possible relocation of the Club trailer, in order to comply with the City of Concord's request to move it. The contents would be removed to storage and inventoried. The Tech Committee would e-mail an inventory to the Treasurer for insurance purposes. The Board postponed a decision until the next meeting to allow time for negotiation with the City of Concord representative.

John announced:

--the program for November will be QRP, Kit Building and New Elecraft Products, given by Wayne Burdick N6KR.

--the 501c3 application is still pending. John will submit still more information.

--the Christmas party is set for Dec. 18; John asked for flyers for the November general meeting.

The Board discussed the contract to be given the Marriott Corp. for the Santa Clara space for anticipated Pacificon requirements in 2011 and 2012. The contract will call for $2000 to be paid upon signing the contract, and another $2000 to be paid Dec. 1, 2010. The Board approved the contract in principle as negotiated by Paula.

Nominations for officer and director positions for this next year have been completed. There are no contests for any of the positions. Ballots will be mailed by Tom and will be tallied at the Christmas party.

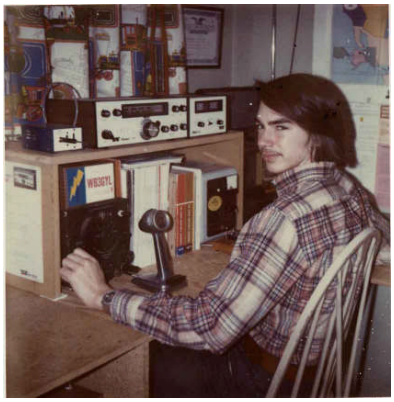
The co-Treasurers reported balances of $9175.20 in checking and $33,884.10 in CDs, according to the bank. The Treasurers are in the process of conforming the books, to determine any differences.

Trevor advised the new cpu was on the hill this week, as well as a power supply replacement.

Jim Siemons distributed a proposal to establish "Education Nights" for students so that interested students and teachers can touch and operate radios, etc. The Board was favorably inclined.
Also Jim mentioned his ongoing efforts to obtain prices, etc. for Club shirts, vests, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

Meet Your New Editor



As WB3GYL, age 16, in Bethesda, Maryland on February 11, 1978 (KF6CVA photo)

I would like to thank the MDARC Board of Directors for appointing me as the new editor of *The Carrier*. I follow an impressive list of past editors and I hope to emulate and exceed their accomplishments. This is my first time editing anything so I appreciate the membership's patience as I learn this position's intricacies.

In April 1977, after two years of short wave radio listening with a Zenith H500 Trans-Oceanic receiver, I was licensed at age 15 as a novice class with callsign WB3GYL. I joined the ARRL the same month. Dr. Roger Kaul, K3TM, gave me my novice class license examination on a cold February evening at the now-razed Kensington Junior High School in my native state of Maryland. That August, I took a route T4 Metrobus from Bethesda to FCC headquarters (then at 1919 M Street Northwest) in Washington, DC where I passed the technician class written examination. After many cross-country (and some DX) 15 meter CW QSOs with my Ten-Tec Argonaut 509 transceiver and its 50 watt companion amplifier (both of which I still own), I went back down to FCC headquarters on December 17, 1978 (my mother's birthday) and passed my 13 words per minute general class Morse Code receiving test. I was issued N4DLA 18 months later while a sophomore at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Upon arrival in the "Music City" in August 1979, I quickly joined my alma mater's amateur radio club, W4VSV (now AA4VU), where I served as president from 1982 until I graduated and returned to Maryland to attend graduate school in May 1983.

Graduation day at W4VSV on May 13, 1983 and one final look at the club's Collins KWM-380 HF transceiver (KF6CVA photo)

I have lived in California since 1987. My father, Jerry, is a third-generation San Franciscan and he was finally licensed in 1996 as KF6CVA. Jerry was a college classmate of future space shuttle astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL. I served as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator with the city of Mountain View ARES from 1990 to 1998 and was the first trustee of its city EOC amateur radio station K6MTV. I am currently a radio communications volunteer with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the trustee of the Orinda Radio Interest Group station K6ORI. I am also a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (Local Chapter 11), Ten-Ten International Net, QRP Amateur Radio Club International, Straight Key Century Club and FISTS, the Morse Code Preservation Society.

Mountain View EOC on January 24, 1994 (N4DLA photo)

On Amateur Television live at *Pacificon* on October 19, 2008

At the super station of the late Joe Engelsman, W6OVO (1934-2001) in San Diego during the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 11, 1999 (W6OVO photo)

GETTIN' THE PICTURE !

By John Schuler KG6CZX

This new column is dedicated to the late Dan Bent, KF6IQL (1952-2005). Despite health problems which prematurely took him from us, Dan was an ardent advocate of amateur television and provided technical and moral support to help many local amateurs to get their video signals on the air via this fascinating and fun-filled mode.

Did you ever wonder what the guy or gal you were talking to looked like, or what his or her shack looked like? Have you ever tried to explain to somebody what something looked like that you are working on, or wanted to show off that new "doodad" or "gizmo" that you just built…well if you answered yes to any of these questions then YOU ARE NOT GETTING' THE PICTURE!!

As Hams we have many wonderful modes of operation available to us and one mode in particular is often over looked ATV or amateur television. This is fast scan television just like you watch at home except that instead of watching the evening news or some pretend reality show you can watch and talk to other hams! On real television. This is not streaming video on a computer but real television transmitted from your own TV transmitter and received on a conventional television set.

You may ask why? Because we can! and its fun. Hams should be seen as well as heard.

You may say sounds expensive not so, everybody already has a TV, or two in the house so you already have a receiver, and transmitters start out for as little as $80.00.

Our club has a fine repeater on Mount Diablo that covers the Bay Area north to the Sierra foothills and up into the Napa area as well. There are currently about 35 guys and gals on ATV for your listening and viewing pleasure. We are basically a rag chew group but have in the past had electronics classes, cooking shows, demonstrations of PSK, RTTY, SSTV, and tech nights where people can get just about any technical question answered. We hold a net every Thursday night at 8pm (where the ATV ops simultaneously send their audio over the 147.060+ (100 hz tone) 2 meter repeater) as well as a "Bathrobe Net" on Sunday mornings at 9am.

In the months to come we will discuss how to get on the air and join the fun! We will cover everything you ever wanted to know about ATV and hope to see more people on the air soon. Remember...

IF YOUR NOT WATCHING ATV, YOU ARE NOT GETTIN' THE PICTURE !!

We also have a Yahoo group called ATNC if you would like to ask questions of the ATV community. All are welcome to join. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ATNC

There is also a live internet stream of the ATV repeater at http://stickam.com/w6cxatv

For more information, call John at 925-449-5219 or e-mail him at JOHNQRZ@aol.com .

MDARC General Meeting Minutes
Nov. 20, 2009 (Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1032 Carol Lane, Lafayette)

Vice-President John Ronan K3ZJJ, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. There were about 65 members and guests present. John introduced Wayne Burdick N6KR, the speaker for the evening. John asked guests and new hams to introduce themselves and invited them to meet with him during the break. Also, John congratulated Membership Chairman Tom Deeble KA6SIP for recording a new total membership of 322 members. John recognized Roland Gaebert KE6NPN, Mt. Diablo State Park Superintendent and thanked him for his support for the Club repeaters on the hill. John welcomed back Glen Rickerd NO6W after surgery.

Lauren Styles WA6CIE announced classes that will begin after Jan. 1, 2010. The Extra class meetings have been postponed because of Glen's surgery, but will resume in January. Also, Lauren announced a drive-thru turkey drop-off at the Salvation Army tonight and tomorrow. Frozen turkeys of 10-15 pounds and canned goods are urgently needed. Lauren and Richard Lueck K6REL will accept any donations.

John noted:

--the Nov. 2 MDARC Board minutes were published on the MDARC Group reflector.

--the Christmas party is scheduled for Friday evening Dec. 18 at the Highlands Country Club in Hiller Highlands, Oakland. Paula Costa KI6MPD is arranging for a caterer. Payment may be made to the Treasurer.

--Nominating Committee Chairman Jay Caldis KT6Y completed the list of nominees. John asked for nominations from the floor. A nomination of Brent Morgan AF6HQ for a Director position was made. Each nominee related their qualifications except for Ron Luttringer K6XC who was out of town. Nominees are: Pres. = Herb Cole AI6AT and John Ronan K3ZJJ, Vice-Pres. = Dale McIntire AD6HD, Secretary = Richard Fletcher WA9UKA, Co-Treasurers = Doug KI6VVV and Rebecca KI6VVT Hinckley, EC = Marty Heyman W6MDH, Directors (2) = Ron Luttringer K6XC and Brent Morgan AF6HQ and Jim Siemons AF6PU.

--The 501c3 application required two additional supplements in the last week, including signed and dated minutes of the last three meetings.

Jim Brunk N6BHX asked members who are eligible to consider joining the VE team. Because of the continuous testing, more VEs are needed.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:30p for a 10-minute break before the speaker.

After the break, Wayne Burdick N6KR, Elecraft's Chief Technology Officer and principal designer of the K3, K2, K1 and KX1 transceivers gave a very interesting and informative presentation. Wayne is co-founder of Elecraft and of Wilderness Radio, and designer of NorCal/Wilderness 40A, Sierra, and SST. Originally licensed as WA6HQH, Wayne is an avid HF QRP and portable operator.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

HAM RADIO OUTLET

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Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over $100
HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You

HRO - 12 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
Free UPS ground delivery in Continental USA for most orders over $100
HRO has Twelve Store Buying Power Working For You
All HRO stores open 10AM-5:30PM, Telephone hours 9:30AM-5:30PM

For delivery charges or other information about ordering, please see our Frequently Asked

HRO Store Contact Information

Store	E-mail	Direct	Toll Free	Fax
Anaheim, CA	ana@hamradio.com	1-714-533-7373	1-800-854-6046	1-714-533-9485
Atlanta, GA	atl@hamradio.com	1-770-263-0700	1-800-444-7927	1-770-263-9548
Burbank, CA	bnk@hamradio.com	1-818-842-1786	1-800-854-6046	1-818-842-5283
Denver, CO	co@hamradio.com	1-303-745-7373	1-800-444-9476	1-303-745-7394
Newcastle, DE	del@hamradio.com	1-302-322-7092	1-800-644-4476	1-302-322-8808
Oakland, CA	oak@hamradio.com	1-510-534-5757	1-800-854-6046	1-510-534-0729
Phoenix, AZ	px@hamradio.com	1-602-242-3515	1-800-444-9476	1-602-395-1244
Portland, OR	or@hamradio.com	1-503-598-0555	1-800-854-6046	1-503-684-0469
Salem, NH	nh@hamradio.com	1-603-898-3750	1-800-444-0047	1-603-898-1041
San Diego, CA	sd@hamradio.com	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705
Sunnyvale, CA	sun@hamradio.com	1-408-736-9496	1-800-854-6046	1-408-736-9499
Woodbridge, VA	va@hamradio.com	1-703-643-1063	1-800-444-4799	1-703-494-3679

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATURN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM TV 919.25 MHz AM TV

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex
Jim Brunk, N6BHX
East County 146.535 Simplex
Drew Hanson, KD6GLY
South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)
Ed Ritchie, K6SFD
West County 145.110/- -
Steve Adams, KF6WNH

December 2009 and January 2010 Club Calendar

December 18, 2009 7:00 pm MDARC Christmas - Holiday Dinner (payment was due Dec.7)
Highlands Country Club 110 Hiller Drive, Oakland

January 9, 2010 9:00 am MDARC Technical Committee
Environmental Center, Pittsburg

**** DATE CHANGED****
January 11, 2010 7:00 pm MDARC Board Meeting
Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek

January 15, 2010 7:30 pm MDARC General Meeting,
Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

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